

~~122312231223~~

Expo 1223/1213

Final Project

“The history of the American Negro is the history of this strife, — this longing to attain self-conscious manhood, to merge his double self into a better and truer self. In this merging he wishes neither of the older selves to be lost” – (Dubois) s quote is from the book “The Souls of Black Folk” written by W.E.B Dubois, an African American sociologist and author from the Harlem Renaissance. This quote discusses the theory of the double self as it refers to the conflict between ethnic/racial and national identity that African Americans experience. It highlights that African Americans are faced with the task of creating a new identity for themselves or merging the two identities without losing a part of themselves. I wanted to pay homage to the theory of the divided self and the complexity of a dual identity that W.E.B Dubois highlights in his excerpt “Double consciousness”. I used my personal experience with my struggle with my identity to create this illustration and expand the theory of the divided self to American Immigrants. As an immigrant I often find myself struggling to merge my ethnic identity and my American identity without losing a piece of me in the process. Individually the heads represent two identities that makeup one person, the ethnic and the national identities. The head on the left depicts my ethnic identity, my roots, the core of my identity. I chose an African print pattern to represent my roots. The head on the right depicts the American flag which represents my national identity, an identity that I strongly identify with. In both identities lie the inner selves reaching out towards each other, trying to merge both identities. The

illustration portrays the struggle of upholding two identities while maintaining our true selves as it highlights that we all strive to create one identity that speaks to our souls. But sometimes in the process of trying to merge our identities, we can lose grasp of our true selves